

Foreign police spies active in U.S.

By ABE WEISBURD

The FBI and the CIA are not the only police and intelligence agencies spying on people in the U.S.

The secret police of many fascist dictatorships and reactionary governments having close ties with the U.S. operate here—usually with the tacit approval and support of Washington. Chile, Iran, South Korea, Taiwan and South Africa all have extensive police operations in this country. The main objectives of the police agencies of these and other countries are to gain support for their reactionary governments and to maintain surveillance over and even silence opponents.

Chileans having experience with the fascist government's secret police, the National Directorate of Intelligence (DINA), have no doubt that Orlando Letelier was assassinated by the secret police which takes its orders directly from Augusto Pinochet.

"There is reason to believe," Jack Anderson wrote in his Nov. 16, 1975 syndicated column, "that DINA has hired thugs to track down and assassinate prominent [Chilean] exiles."

Shortly after being released from prison in 1974, Letelier told a New York Times correspondent that he knew that DINA was going to kill him.

The Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, with which Letelier was affiliated at the time of his death, has revealed that the former Chilean official became a target of the secret police because he had information about DINA's criminal activities in the U.S.

"This murder [of Letelier] is a further demonstration of how the junta operates by way of DINA—not only within Chile but throughout the world, wherever it can," former Chilean Sen. Hugo Miranda told the Guardian.

CLEAR TIES

Asked if U.S. intelligence had ties with DINA, Miranda stated: "The ties between the CIA and DINA were clearly established and documented by the Church committee [of the U.S. Senate]."

A research center concerned with Latin American affairs, NACLA West, noted in one of its newsletters: "The close ties between the secret police (DINA) and the CIA were underlined by the unannounced visit to Washington of Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, head of DINA, in August 1975. Vernon Walters, CIA career officer implicated in the Brazilian coup of 1964, was in charge of his visit and organized several key meetings with influential people in Washington. The relative importance of these key meetings [between DINA and the CIA] was clearly manifested in the efforts by the White House to maintain a cloak of secrecy over the visit and its refusal to permit any congressional inquiry."

El Rebelde, the newspaper circulated clandestinely in Chile by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), has reported that the U.S. aided DINA starting from its creation in July 1974. The MIR newspaper has also revealed that underground workers found in DINA headquarters in Chile a special guide to counterinsurgency. "Manual to Combat the Resistance," prepared by the U.S. Army.

Winslow Peck of the magazine CounterSpy, which published lists of CIA agents around the world, has stated that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Authority (DEA) is used as a cover for U.S. intelligence contact with DINA.

One of the most dreaded secret police agencies is Iran's SAVAK. Its agents are trained by U.S. and Israeli intelligence. Barbaric torture or death is the lot of those in Iran who oppose the Shah and fall into the hands of SAVAK.

SAVAK concentrates its spying activity against the anti-imperialist Iranian Students Association, which opposes the Shah. They constitute a large section of the 20,000 Iranian students here.

Also the U.S. immigration authorities cooperate with SAVAK by withdrawing the visas of students that the Shah's agents want returned to Iran. In June 1970, 41 Iranian students who demonstrated against the Shah during a visit to the U.S. by the Shah's sister had their visas withdrawn and were threatened with deportation.

At a House International Relations subcommittee hearing, Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton replied to a question: "As a general statement, the Iranian authorities are interested in knowing about political terrorists who would return to Iran. I assume it would be the responsibility assigned to the Iranian secret service."

The use of the term "political terrorists" to describe the students indicates beyond question that the U.S. government approves of SAVAK's activities. Atherton implied that "approval" also meant protection when the "political terrorists" mentioned by Atherton are simply leftist students. He told the subcommittee that he could only give more information about SAVAK on a strictly confidential basis, because it touched on "very sensitive U.S.-Iranian relations."



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Not only does Washington Intelligence keep an eye on foreign progressives in the U.S., but representatives of dictatorships abroad have virtually free reign in keeping tabs on dissident nationals as well.